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SOURCE: Wen-hui Pao

**RUSSIANS PARTICIPATE IN KUANG-CHOW CONFERENCE**

The Kuang-chou All-Circles People's Delegates Assembly held its concluding session on 1 December 1949. There were 368 delegates present at the meeting and 426 guests and spectators. The business of the day included speeches by various delegates, congratulatory telegrams to various central government leaders and military units, and passage of a resolution proposed by the conference presidium to organize a Kuang-chou All-Circles People's Delegates Assembly Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee will be a standing committee, designed to represent people from all walks of life in Kuang-chou, to assist the government in carrying out all administrative activities, and to ensure that the government will be an organization entirely devoted to serving the interests of the people.

Toward the close of the meeting, six Russian spectators were introduced by the Mayor of Kuang-chow amidst prolonged cheers and applause. They were Baranov, chief advisor to the Railroads Section of the People's Revolution Military Affairs Council, and five technical specialists.

Baranov addressed the conference briefly, congratulating the delegates on their achievements. He said, "The government and people of the Soviet Union are entirely sympathetic with the fight of the Chinese people to secure liberty, independence, and economic development. The entire population of the Soviet Union, from Stalin to the masses, is displaying the keenest interest in China's revolutionary struggle and economic reconstruction."

"The Soviet government and people are the most sincere friends of the Chinese people and the Chinese People's Republic. The Soviet Union was the first among the countries of the world to recognize the Republic and enter into diplomatic relations with it.

- 1 -

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"The people of the Soviet Union understand the desires of the Chinese people for liberty and independence and the pursuit of economic reconstruction. The Soviet government and people are now actively aiding Chinese economic reconstruction, and wish to do even more in the future."

Baranov pointed out that Russian technicians and engineers and Chinese railroad personnel were working together in repairing railroads and that the Chinese people had achieved great successes in economic reconstruction. For example, a construction job concerned with a bridge across the P'a Chiang in Kwang-tung, which would normally require several months, was completed in 12 days.

"The Soviet Union appreciates," Baranov continued, "the difficulties China is encountering in her economic reconstruction. In recent months the Soviet Union has aided Chinese railroad rehabilitation by sending 500 kilometers of steel rails to China. This demonstrates the deep friendship that exists between the two peoples. Such action is also our duty, for a strong China is an important force behind world peace."

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- 2 -

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